forgotten that if there is a dissentient voice heard amidst the Princely Order, there is an equally jarring note sounded by some British Indian politicians. There are those who have proclaimed that the entry of the Indian States into the federal scheme will act as a drag on the political progress of India. While I do not question the sincerity of those who entertain these apprehensions, I make bold to say that there is no ground for such apprehension. It is in the establishment of a Federation alone that there is hope of realising the political unity of India in a real sense. The difference between British India and Indian India is an artificial one. Far from the Indian States being a drag on the political progress of India, the postponement of the establishment of Federation and the isolation of Indian States as a separate entity will be the greatest drag on the achievement of political unity in India. It is impossible even to conceive of a self-governing India in the real sense without the Indian States forming an integral part of the whole scheme. Every obstacle thrown in the way of the establishment of the Federal Constitution is an obstacle in the achievement of political unity in India. Fortunately for us the times are propitious. A few months back the political impasse that was created in six of the Indian Provinces cast a gloom over the whole political field and created grave doubts whether Federation would become an accomplished fact. Thanks to the statesmanship of those guiding the policy of the Indian National Congress, the assumption of responsibility by this great political party in the six Provinces has restored normality in the political conditions of India and has made possible the early inauguration of the Federal Constitution in the Centre. Let us therefore realise that every contribution that we make, however little it might be, towards the building up of this great structure of the Indian Federation will be an offering at the alter of the Mother Country.

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Questions and Answers.

Departments—Amalgamation of.

1. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have any scheme for the amalgamation of any other departments than those that were already amalgamated ;

(b) if so, which they are?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*.—

(a) None at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)*.— Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any idea of amalgamating the two Departments of Tramway and Forests ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*.— Government have no idea of amalgamating these two Departments.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)*.— Has this question ever engaged the attention of the Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*.— There was a proposal before the Retrenchment Committee. But the Committee itself has made a recommendation that this amalgamation is not feasible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)*.— My question is whether the Government had at any time the idea of amalgamating these two Departments?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*.— Not in recent days. Many many years back there was an idea but it was dropped.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)*.—Had not the Government an idea of amalgamating these two Departments just as they amalgamated the Departments of Public Health and Panchayats?

Mr. President.—The time has not yet come to consider this question seriously. We have not made up our mind, one way or the other.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)*.—May I know whether the idea that they had about this time last year has been given up.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*.— No definite answer can be given so far as that matter is concerned.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)*.—Is it the position of the Government that the idea that they had about this time last year of amalgamating these two departments together has been given up.

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Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Did the Retrenchment Committee investigate the possibility of this amalgamation?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government.)*—Yes. It did.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam.)*—What is the conclusion?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government)*—That it is not possible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—On what grounds?

Mr. President.—The Report is made available to the Hon'ble Members.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—What are the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee that have been accepted by the Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government.)*—The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of Government.

Franchise qualification—Travancore and British India.

2. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware that the franchise qualification for the Legislative Assembly in Travancore is rupee one tax and that in British India it is any tax or literacy;

(b) whether any request has been placed before the Government for widening the franchise to the Cochin Legislative Council?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(a) The franchise qualification for the Travancore Sree Mulam Assembly based on tax is rupee one. In British India the several Provinces have different franchise qualifications. In the Madras Presidency it is any tax or literacy.

b) Yes.

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